

ARE THE MINE BOSSES GOING TO GET BENEFIT AGAIN?

By Gilson Gardner

Washington, Nov. 1.—The coal trust is preparing for its expected wage fight with the anthracite coal miners. The four-year agreement between the mine workers and operators ends on March 31, 1916. The mine workers, meeting last month at Wilkesbarre, Pa., formulated the demands which they will present to the operators at the expiration of the present agreement. The four most important demands are (1) recognition of the union, (2) eight-hour day, (3) a 20 per cent increase in wages, and (4) "a more speedy, simplified and satisfactory method of settling disputes."

The mine owners are preparing to resist these demands and the probability of another big strike grows. Already the operators have arranged for getting newspaper publicity for their side of the case. A selected group of newspaper men have been invited to "inspect the mines" of the companies. They will be furnished with free transportation to and from the mines, will be entertained, wined and dined at the expense of the companies and will be given a three-day opportunity to investigate mine conditions. The result is expected to be favorable publicity for the coal trust.

Should the miners win their demands an immediate increase in the price of coal will probably result. This may be forecast by what happened four years ago, when the present agreement was made. Coal prices, wholesale and retail, immediately went up. The mine owners said it was because wages had been advanced. But an investigation conducted by the U. S. bureau of labor in response to a congressional resolution found that while the average wholesale increase in coal prices jumped 25.82 cents per ton (the coal companies receiving in 1912 a total of \$13,450,000 more than they would have received for the same tonnage

at previous rates) miners received an advance of only 5.6 per cent in wages, representing "an average increase of 9 cents a ton in the cost of producing coal and totaling in round numbers \$4,000,000." The strike thus benefited the coal operators to the tune of 16 cents on every single ton of coal mined since is occurred or about \$36,000,000 in four years.

GIRL WRITER IS AUTHOR OF CAPITAL SUFFRAGE PAGEANT



MISS HAZEL MCKAYE

Washington.—A pageant about a woman, written by a woman, presented by women for the emancipation of all women—that is the unique spectacle to be witnessed by Washington on the evening of Dec. 13, when the "Susan B. Anthony pageant"—the work of a brilliant young woman genius, Miss Hazel MacKaye—is to be presented.

A Tommy in France writes to his wife that life in the trenches would not be so bad if it wasn't for his neighbors in the trench oppo-